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MARCH 24, 2016

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## £60,000 needed to save church



THE residents of Banbury are being urged to save St Mary's Church, which needs £60,000 of repairs.

Damage to the roof of the 18th century church was first highlighted last year, after it was added to English Heritage's 'at risk' register in 2014.

The church has already received a £100,000 Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Grant and £23,000 from gifts, grants and fabric funds but the cost of repairing the roof has gone up.

Sir Tony Baldry, chairman of the National Church Buildings Council, said he was pleased with how much had been donated so far but urged people to get behind their local church.

He said: "St Mary's received the largest possible amount

Continued on page 3

# HORROR ATTACK ON DOG WALKER

Megan Archer  
[marcher@nqo.com](mailto:marcher@nqo.com)

A CARPENTER who was attacked 100 yards from his home while walking his dog has said he is now too frightened to leave his house.

David Johnson was taking his two-year-old Springer Spaniel Ted out for a walk before bedtime, when he was approached by three men, he said.

Mr Johnson, 47, who is taking time off work due to a major knee operation last December, said the men called him by the wrong name and then started to hit him.

He said: "They said; 'you're Steve Wilson, you owe somebody money' and I said 'no, I'm David Johnson' but they just started hitting me."

"I was on the phone to my friend at the time but they snatched it off me."

"Someone hit me with something on the back of the head and then they all started kicking me."

"It all happened so quickly."

The attack happened in East Street, Grimsbury, at about 11.50pm on Friday, March 11.

Neighbours rushed to Mr Johnson's aid, taking him into their home while they called the police.



David Johnson after he was attacked

He suffered cuts to his face and lip, grazes to his elbow and cuts to his knee.

His dog ran off during the attack and was found by a woman living along the road.

Mr Johnson, who moved into his Grimsbury home three weeks ago and lives alone with Ted, added: "I had a knee replacement in December, I was still doing physio but this has really affected it. I was still limping. I only take Ted round the block at night but even then that takes us hours."

"But we don't go out now, I'm too frightened unless I'm with one of my friends. It's put me right off - it's terrible - hopefully someone will come forward and say something."

Thames Valley Police said the main attacker was described as white, of

a muscly build, about five foot eight to five foot 10, and in his thirties. He was wearing a black T-shirt and dark jeans, and put on a grey hooded top before running off towards Middleton Road.

PC Reece Millar, from Banbury police station, said: "It is believed this was a case of mistaken identity."

"We are keen for anyone who may have information regarding this to please come forward."

"One other man and a woman were thought to have been near the offender at the time of the incident."

"We would like to speak to them as they may have useful information to help us with this investigation."

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

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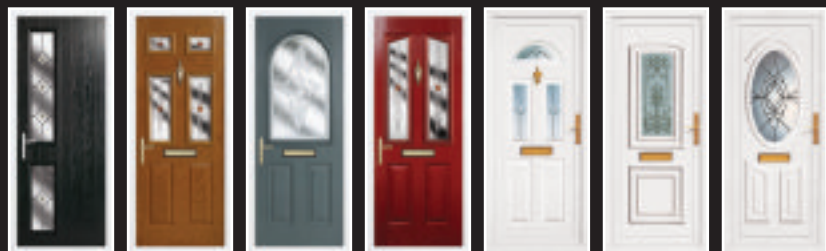


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# Wonders of the cosmos leave students inspired

Mary Cruse  
mcruse@nqo.com

A COSMOLOGIST who has helped to capture stunning images of far-flung galaxies spoke to aspiring space scientists in Banbury.

Dr Chris Pearson, who works for RAL Space on the Harwell Oxford campus, addressed students and visitors at Space Studio Banbury, a new secondary school for 14 to 18 year olds interested in science, maths, engineering and space.

Dr Pearson said: "Space is a great hook to get young people interested in science.

"Once it's there that scientific curiosity can lead them to all sorts of different fields."

The talk on Thursday which explored questions including 'what does the universe contain' and 'how are galaxies, stars and planets formed', was met with an eager reception.

Dr Pearson said: "It usually gets a very enthusiastic response - it's great.

"Everyone loves to hear about space - space and dinosaurs."

Dr Pearson's presentation contained images of galaxies and nebulas taken using the SPIRE infrared 'camera' that allows scientists to explore remote reaches of the cosmos.

Dr Pearson spoke at the school's Open Observatory Evening, in which visitors were invited to handle lunar soils, take part in space-themed engineering challenges, and observe the night sky through the school's observatory telescope.

Hayley Smith, assistant headteacher at the school in Ruskin Road, said: "We decided to organise the events because we have found that space is a really inspirational context that helps to get people interested in science.

"Here at the Space Studio we work to promote the study of STEM subjects and we have found that these public events are a great way to inspire our students and connect with



An image of the Rosette Nebula; Alli Templeton, left, and her daughter Maddie, centre explore the displays; right, Dr Chris Pearson; below, assistant headteacher Hayley Smith



the local community."

Alli Templeton attended the evening with her daughter, Maddie, who wants to be an astrophysicist. Ms Templeton said: "We come to the open days every time. Maddie is hoping to attend the school when she's old enough.

"It's so important to make science accessible for young people.

"When I was a child, it just wasn't really, but now

there's so many more opportunities to get involved".

Ms Smith explains that the events, which regularly include a visiting speaker who works in the space industry, are designed to provide young people with the opportunity to meet people "working in the types of careers that they might be aspiring to", giving them "a better idea of what's out there for them in the future".

Dr Pearson said: "Getting kids into science at a young age is key. I do a lot of outreach in schools and I think it's important to talk to children about the sort of things that you can do as a scientist."

■ To find out more about Space Studio Banbury visit [spacestudiobanbury.org](http://spacestudiobanbury.org)

## Timely repair work averts 'a catastrophic collapse'

■ Continued from page 1 under the Government's Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair scheme - £100,000 - which was great news.

"What was not such good news was that when the structural engineers carried out a survey of the roof, they found that all the principal structural timbers were unstable and without any sound bearing.

"I think it is not too much of an exaggeration to suggest that if we hadn't commenced this repair work at the time, there could have been a complete catastrophic collapse of the whole roof of St Mary's."

A temporary church roof was erected in December so the repair team could inspect the gutter linings and timberwork, with scaffolding alone costing

more than £1,000 a week.

Mr Baldry said the architects and contractors had now revised the project to allow for the introduction of new steel work to support the church roof and resolve issues with the timber.

He said: "This extra work, unsurprisingly, involves extra costs and it is estimated the project is going to cost a further £60,000.

"I hope that as many people and organisations in the town as possible will feel able to give of their means to the cost of these vital repairs to the roof of St Mary's."

■ To donate, text STMB14 followed by a £ and the amount you would like to give in pounds to 70070 and answer yes for Gift Aid.

## Paedophile is jailed for emailing photos

A PAEDOPHILE was jailed for making more than 3,000 indecent photos of children and plotting a sexual offence against a young girl.

Simon Veale, 43, of Edmunds Road, Banbury, was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on Friday after the judge branded him "a danger to children".

He was sentenced to five years in prison, plus six years on extended licence (an extra precaution to protect the public from him).

In 2014 Veale tried to initiate sexual activity with a girl under the age of 13.

Between July 2012 and March 2014 he made 2,349 indecent photos of children on a mobile phone, and in the decade prior to that he made

677 indecent photos on a computer. He emailed 42 of the videos and videos to 23 other people between August 2011 and March 2014.

Investigating officer Detective Sargent Julia McDowall, from Thames Valley Police's paedophile online investigation team, said: "Offences involving indecent images of children are not a victim-less crime, the sharing of these images is the result of very serious offences against children having taken place and the further distribution of these images fuels such offences.

"The judge recognised Veale is a danger to children and the sentence he received reflects the severity of his actions."

## Scanner building

BANBURY: Plans to add a two-storey extension to the Horton General Hospital's CT scanner building have been submitted to Cherwell District Council.

If approved, the plans would feature a new examination room, waiting area, pre-injection room and toilets added to the site in Oxford Road.

An external access stairway and bridge to the first-floor roof plant room would also be constructed.

The application was received on Friday, February 26, and will be decided on by the planning committee by Wednesday, May 4.

## Sixties fundraiser

BANBURY: A 60s-themed party in aid of Katharine House Hospice is being thrown by Banbury Trades and Labour Club next month.

From 7.30pm on Saturday, April 2, visitors can rediscover disco fever at the club in West Bar Street with live tribute band The Mersey Legends.

There will also be a raffle and bar running until 11pm.

Tickets cost £10 and all proceeds will go to the Adderbury hospice, which offers end-of-life care to people with terminal illnesses in Oxfordshire.

For more information call Maxine Keyes on 07724 136890.

## Future of graffiti wall

BANBURY: Residents keen to learn about the future of the graffiti wall outside Naomi's Cafe Bar are invited to a special event on Good Friday.

In recent weeks eagle-eyed passers-by have spotted the colourful wall in Bridge Street being painted solid grey.

On Friday, March 25, from 7.30am to 6pm visitors can enjoy a barbecue, weather permitting, and chat to staff about plans for the iconic wall.

There will also be a chance to meet the artists. For details call 01295 259795.



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## Two villages in 'best' chart

TWO Oxfordshire villages have made it into the top 40 best villages in Britain, according to *The Times* newspaper.

The Sibfords, six miles west of Banbury, topped the list in the south and Great Tew, near Chipping Norton, came third.

The former, a cluster of villages made up of Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Burdrop, on the north edge of the Cotswolds, was praised for its picturesque properties, village shop and gastropub the Wykham Arms.

Its doctor's surgery – cited as one of the best in Oxfordshire – also received a mention as well as independent schools Bloxham and Tudor Hall.

The average house price in the village, according to Rightmove is £670,750 and those looking to move to the area could buy a farmhouse, complete with paddocks and stables on the market at £1.29m.

Great Tew, just nine miles from The Sibfords and also in the Cotswolds, impressed the list's compilers with its "proper countryside" feel.

Cornbury Music Festival and the 100-acre members club Soho Farmhouse were adjudged to have set West Oxfordshire apart and made it the place to be.

The illustrious list of celebrities, including the actor Sir Patrick Stewart, comedy producer John Lloyd and the fashion designer Patrick Grant – who have all lived in the village – were also mentioned.

## Tea dance cancelled

AN EASTER bonnet tea dance set to take place on Saturday at the town hall has been cancelled because of illness.

Town mayor Tony Mepham and his wife Lesley were due to host the event but Mr Mepham is now unable to attend.

Money for tickets bought in advance will be refunded if they are returned to the town hall.



# 1,000 back plea to save old theatre

MORE than 1,000 people have joined a campaign to save a theatre in Banbury from being demolished.

The historic Grand Theatre in Broad Street could be lost to a new development project, which would see three retail units and 14 flats built in its place.

Chairman of Banbury Civic Society, Rob Kinchin-Smith, said he thought the support of the community showed the importance of a theatre in the area and urged residents to raise the funds needed to bring it back into use. He said: "The theatre hasn't been properly used as a theatre since the 1960s and has been used as a bingo hall and Chicago Rock ever since."

"But there has always been a feeling locally that the theatre should go back to the way it once was and this campaign seems to have captured the imagination of the community."

The application for the development replaces previous planning consent for two retail units, two mews houses and six flats.

The change in application is thought to be a bid to increase the site's attractiveness to potential buyers for the property, which was up for sale for £800,000.

Mr Kinchin-Smith said he thought re-instating the theatre would be beneficial for people in the area.

He said: "The theatre could be used as a theatre or a performance space or even as a place for the community to



Chairman of Banbury Civic Society, Rob Kinchin-Smith, is trying to save the historic Grand Theatre use. It would be a real shame to lose it to another development."

Mr Kinchin-Smith added that bringing the theatre back to its heyday would require grant funding, which could be matched by the public through crowdfunding websites.

He has now launched a Facebook page to unite campaigners, which has 1,055 members.

He said: "I believe in Banbury and Banbury people and I think we can save it. "I've let the genie out of the bottle by sparking this Facebook group because we've had so many people join, even though the group was launched only a week ago."

To join the Facebook group, visit [facebook.com/groups/207486189614081/](https://facebook.com/groups/207486189614081/)

# Opportunities beckon at 400 homes scheme

Sophie Mogridge  
smogridge@nqo.com

A MAJOR new development for 400 homes on the edge of Banbury is set to provide residents with new opportunities, according to a county councillor.

The scheme includes 60 sheltered housing and extra care accommodation units, 500 square metres of employment and training premises, and open space.

The plans by Bloor Homes to develop the 26-hectare site just off Stratford Road, Drayton, were in the pipeline three years ago and Bloxham and Easington county councillor Kieron Mallon, pictured, said he believed the development could bring prosperity for residents.

He said: "I think all parts of Banbury are seeing growth and new houses help that along – with this sort of thing comes new opportunities for residents. "These housing estates will also help

the road infrastructure as it would be of a better quality and would allow traffic to flow freely without being snarled up at pinch points."

But Banbury Civic Society spokesman Rob Kinchin-Smith said he had reservations about the impact the new homes would have on the history of the area. He said: "The site is on a ridge and is highly visible from Wroxton Abbey and the Drayton Arch, which is a Grade II park and garden."

"The building of flats up to four storeys high in the same area has the potential to cause harm to the setting of historical buildings."

The site is next to the Bretch Hill estate, which was originally built as part of the London overspill plan of the 1960s and was expanded in the 1980s. Now more than half of the estate's homes are owner-occupied and the remainder are owned by a housing association.

In its plan, Bloor

Homes said: "Contributions to local infrastructure are considered to be the most sustainable way of meeting Banbury's housing needs and addressing the issues facing the town."

"Cherwell District Council has sought to identify sites, which will maximise benefits in terms of providing new homes and affordable housing, address deprivation, encourage economic growth and achieve good urban design and to balance this with the need to minimise the use of natural resources, the harm to nearby villages and the surrounding landscape and pressure on the road network."

Road access to the site will be built on Bretch Hill, between Berkeley Close and Bramber Close, and on Edinburgh Way.

The layout of the nearby Stratford Road and Bretch Hill junction will also be revamped to provide a roundabout, and the crossing on Stratford Road will become a controlled crossing.



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# Raccoon Zoom's running for Skye



Adam Gentry dressed as Zoom the Raccoon; inset, Sally and Andrew Hall with Skye and Jesse on a family holiday

**Sophie Mogridge**  
smogridge@nqo.com

A MAN who witnessed the tragic struggle of Skye Hall is running a half marathon in the hope of funding research into childhood cancer.

Adam Gentry, 37, met Sally and Andrew Hall while they were on Kamran's Ward at Oxford Children's Hospital with Skye, who died aged five in 2014 from the side effects of his treatment for an aggressive brain tumour.

Now Mr Gentry, from Banbury, will be running the Reading Half Marathon dressed as Zoom the Raccoon, the mascot for Mr and Mrs Hall's charity Blue Skye

Thinking. He said: "My wife and I met the Hall family while they were in hospital with Skye.

"Together we witnessed, and were part of events that no family should have to endure, watching those most precious to us suffer in the cruellest manner.

"If there is anything that can be done to improve treatments and increase awareness, I will help in any way that I can.

"I wanted to do something special and taking part in something like this dressed in a raccoon outfit is definitely a first for me but I will jog, walk or even crawl to make sure I get over that finish line on Sunday, April 3."

All the money Blue Skye Thinking raises will go towards the research into new treatment

for childhood cancer in the hope all children diagnosed with brain tumours will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post-treatment.

Mrs Hall, from Abingdon, said she thought Mr Gentry dressing up as a raccoon was wonderful.

She said: "Skye chose a raccoon to be the charity's mascot during his mission to Loom to the Moon, where he asked children from around the world to help him create a record-breaking Loom band.

"Zoom has made a number of visits to children's hospitals throughout the country so it will be nice to see him on the 13-mile course stretching his legs."

■ To support Blue Skye Thinking visit [justgiving.com/blueskyethinking](http://justgiving.com/blueskyethinking)

## 5,000 took up first aid training in past year

MORE than 5,000 people in Oxfordshire were taught first aid skills by St John Ambulance in 2015.

The charity has released figures for how many businesses it helped train employees and revealed more than 462 people a month were given the potentially life-saving skills.

The final total of people

trained at St John Ambulance centres in Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Wantage reached 5,555 – up from 5,247 in 2014.

Workplace training manager Deborah Adwent said: "Our figures show that businesses in Oxfordshire are committed to meeting their first aid

responsibilities and ensuring the health and well-being of their staff and customers.

"We hope that even more businesses step forward to train their staff this year."

For more details on how to arrange a course for your business call 07940 501525 or e-mail [katerutsch@cakepublicity.co.uk](mailto:katerutsch@cakepublicity.co.uk).

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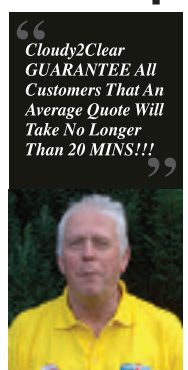
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& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success.

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## Dancers in a whirl for Strictly contest

NOVICE dancers have their eyes fixed on the Strictly glitterball this year, as they take part in the town's hottest dance contest.

Contestants from all walks of life have signed up for this year's Strictly Banbury to raise money for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Organised by Step by Step dance school in Oxford, the show sees 20 local heroes partnered with experienced dancers in the style of popular BBC show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Organiser and dance teacher at Step by Step, Glenda Harper, said the sessions were going exceptionally well so far.

She said: "We're all partnered up; we have teachers, solicitors, firemen and paramedics taking part.

"Everyone is looking very good. The first week they were all trying to work out their left



The participants in Strictly Banbury 2016 Picture by Martin Farmer

from their right and forward and back but now we can see that we have some very good dancers evolving.

"We have 20 people taking part this year, the most we've ever had.

"We're hoping to raise more than £10,000 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and we've also got one woman raising money for Age UK, which she specifically requested.

"We chose the air ambulance because of the amazing work they do, and also their

outgoings are a lot higher than their income. It costs them £2,500 to get an air ambulance in the air every time."

Each contestant will learn the Viennese waltz and the cha cha to perform at the grand finale on April 29 and 30 and May 1 at the Mill Arts Centre.

The group are in their second week of rehearsals and have raised more than £1,600 for charity.

Tickets cost £17.50 for the show, which is in its fifth year. Call 01295 279002.

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# Plans by firm to increase roles for apprentices

Engineering company set to create more positions after joining the 5% Club

Sophie Mogridge  
smogridge@nqo.com

AN ENGINEERING group is stepping up its support for apprenticeships as part of a mission to double the number of positions it offers.

Adi Group, which has a branch in Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, will be creating the new roles within its electrical and mechanical divisions after joining the 5% Club, which is designed to encourage UK businesses to employ the equivalent of five per cent of its workforce through apprenticeships.

Alan Lusty, chief executive officer at Adi Group, said the company employed 450 staff and hoped to achieve its five per cent target by the end of next year.

He said: "We operate in a sector that has suffered from a serious skills shortage in recent years.

"But with plans to expand our business by creating 500 new jobs in the next five years, it is imperative that we inspire a sea change in how our sector delivers training to the next generation of engineers.

"Apprenticeships are a vital way to tackle the skills shortage, but they are in need of a serious image overhaul.

"In our field, hands-on apprenticeships are the building blocks of a highly rewarding career that can take individuals all the way to the top, and yet young people and their parents remain largely unaware of the benefits such a route into work can bring.

"By increasing the number of apprenticeships we offer we hope to tackle that perception, and help the next generation to take full advantage of the fantastic opportunities on offer to them."

The club is supported by the Department of Business, Innova-

tion and Skills, and is part of the government's goal to create three million more apprenticeships by 2020.

With 10 apprentices already employed across the UK and Ireland, Adi is now recruiting for a further six positions with a view to add two more in the second half of 2016.

Having offered apprenticeships since it was founded in 1990, Adi formalised its commitment to the cause with the launch of its Apprenticeship Academy in November 2014.

Kyle Sterry, 19, who studies with the firm, said: "When I was at school I always took an interest in engineering, but I wasn't sure how to get into the industry.

"I decided to try A-levels at sixth form, but quickly realised that it wasn't for me, so I dropped out after the first year in an attempt to find an engineering apprenticeship."

■ If you would like to apply for an apprenticeship with adi, visit [adiltd.co.uk/careers](http://adiltd.co.uk/careers).

## Golden award for Scout



1st Adderbury's Ben Haynes has been given the Chief Scout Gold Award

LEADERSHIP and life skills helped an Oxfordshire Scout win the top award possible for his age group.

Ben Haynes, 15, of the 1st Adderbury Scout Group has been given the Chief Scout's Gold Award following four years of different tests and challenges.

He was presented with his award by North Oxfordshire deputy district commissioner Ian Broome during a ceremony of family and friends at the Adderbury Institute

on Tuesday, March 15.

Ben's Scout Leader Andy Green said: "Completing the Chief Scouts Gold Award is a major achievement and will help Ben stand out from the crowd when applying for a job or university place.

"The 1st Adderbury Troop are all very proud of him."

The Warriner School pupil has been completing a series of challenges to get to this point including leadership roles and community work at

Adderbury Lakes.

He has also been out on expeditions and camps such as caving, gorge walking and motor sports.

Deputy district commissioner Ian Broome said: "It takes a lot of hard work and effort through a series of diverse challenges to achieve the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

"Alongside his school work, sports and other activities Ben has displayed great commitment and self-motivation in Scouting."

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## Plans axed

**N OXON:** Plans to build 50 new homes in Adderbury have been turned down because it would harm the character of the village.

Councillors voted the scale of development was "beyond the existing limits of Adderbury".

Cherwell District Council lead member for planning, Michael Gibbard, said: "We considered the proposal would have resulted in an unnecessary and unjustified loss of best and most versatile agricultural land."

The homes were proposed for 3.5 hectares of farmland off Milton Road.

## £1k for charity

**BANBURY:** The town mayor, Tony Mepham, has presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Banbury Young Homelessness Project (BYHP).

The money was raised at the mayor's civic supper on February 20.

## Awards show

**OXON:** The work of the county's volunteers, charities and non-profit groups are set to be celebrated as part of the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards.

On Wednesday, May 11, categories to be celebrated at Oxford Town Hall include new charity of the year, lifetime achievement, collaboration and best team of volunteers.

To nominate someone, visit the website before Thursday, March 31, at [www.ocva.org.uk/awards](http://www.ocva.org.uk/awards)

# Night moves to save lives

New £4.5m state-of-the-art helicopter will provide 24-hour lifesaving cover

**Naomi Herring**  
nherring@nqo.com

**MORE** lives could be saved as Oxfordshire's air ambulance launches its first night flights.

The Thames Valley Air Ambulance, which is a charity, will now be able to fly around the clock from its base at RAF Benson with a new state-of-the-art helicopter.

The new £4.5m helicopter means seven extra hours of flying up to 2am. Currently they can only be called out up to 7pm.

Helicopter Emergency Medical Services paramedic Lisa Brown said: "There has obviously been a lot of learning to do and there is still a lot to learn. I have done my first night flying mission now which was great putting everything into practice. It gives us much more scope with what we can provide."

The Thames Valley service launched in 1999 and has so far flown more than 15,000 missions – averaging three flights a day.

Up until now the police helicopter has been the only emergency service to be able to fly at night.

TVAA chairman Sir Tim Jenner said: "This allows us to reach more patients and more people out there in the hours of darkness, up until now we have been constrained by



The new helicopter is refuelled and inspected after a night flying mission; inset, Capt Dave Webber and paramedic Andy Colledge in the cockpit and, right, Capt Webber with paramedics Lisa Brown and Andy Colledge

our helicopter at night. As far as I know this is the first of its type in the country and cost £4.5m to buy, an extra half a million to kit it out and kit out our crew.

"It has been two years in the planning, two years getting the helicopter and about six months of training."

The charity has recruited eight more members and upgraded to the new helicopter – which will be flown by pilots wearing £28,000 night-vision goggles – alongside Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

As part of the training, paramedics, HEMS paramedics and military

personnel from RAF Benson have been working together to share experiences and expertise.

Last week teams worked together on staged scenarios to demonstrate pre-hospital care including in-flight emergency response between the teams.

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- Visit to London
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**The Eden Project & the Lost Gardens of Heligan**  
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- Entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Entrance to the Eden Project
- Visit to Torquay



**RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show**  
2 days from £129, 9 July 2016

Join us in a spectacular setting where you can admire show gardens and floral marquees, take advice from talks and demonstrations, and maybe see a celebrity or two from the horticultural world.

### Price includes

- One night's stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visit to Windsor
- Entrance to the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show



**RHS Flower Show Tatton Park & Charming Chester**  
2 days from £129, 23 July 2016

Join us in the height of summer for the chance to gather gardening tips and inspiration at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. With plenty of space to walk around, it's the perfect venue for taking your time and enjoying all there is to see.

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- Visit to Chester
- Entrance to the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

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## Advertisement Feature

# Bright future for Banbury

Naomi Herring  
nherring@nqo.com

TRADERS can look forward to a brighter future in Banbury's High Street as the number of empty units in town has fallen.

A partnership between traders, landlords and Cherwell District Council has been working to revive the town centre and recent figures show there are now fewer empty shops than it did this time last year.

It comes after a masterplan was put forward for consultation to look at improving Banbury's centre including the redevelopment of the Oxford Canal area.

MP for Banbury Victoria Prentis, pictured, said: "Shopping locally is

really important to me, and I try to do so wherever possible. Banbury has a lovely High Street with a good variety of shops.

"The combination of high street brands and independent traders, alongside the traditional market, makes Banbury an attractive place to shop.

"It is really encouraging that the number of small businesses in our area is continuing to increase as confidence returns to our economy."

Cherwell District Council lead member for Brighter Future, Kieron Mallon, said that the proposed masterplan was looking to focus on



areas such as revamping the town market, looking at more town centre events, plus creating a mixture of retail, residential and leisure.

He said: "Cherwell District Council is committed to working with traders, landlords and agents to enhance the shopping offer in Banbury town centre.

"The town team co-ordinators, who were appointed by Cherwell

District Council in 2014, have successfully focused on boosting footfall, reducing the number of empty town shops, and exploring opportunities to bring the pop-up

concepts to Banbury.

"The council remains committed to maintaining a vibrant shopping environment in the town and will continue to work with the Old Town Association, the Chamber of Commerce, Castle Quay, the town council, the markets operator and existing businesses to ensure this."

There are events such as Banbury Canal Day, Food Fair, Flower and Produce Show and the Old Town Spring Party on Saturday, May 7. The Banbury masterplan is currently out for public consultation and can be viewed at Castle Quay shopping centre on Saturday, April 2, from 10am until 4pm.

It can also be viewed online at [cherwell.gov.uk/policypublicconsultation](http://cherwell.gov.uk/policypublicconsultation)

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## Banbury Town Council

### Forthcoming Events:

**MAY**  
**Saturday 7th 9.30am - 3.30pm**  
**Spring Old Town Party**  
 Celebrating the Old Town of Banbury and its unique and independent traders. Join us in our Spring celebration.

**JUNE**  
**Sunday 12th 10.30am - 4.30pm**  
**Banbury & District Show**  
 Free entry for this event. Showcasing everything you need for a great day out in the heart of Banbury.

**Saturday 25th**  
**Armed Forces Day**  
 Stands, displays and demonstrations are the order of the day for a very different event as compared to previous years. Join the military organisations and associated groups/charities in Spiceball Park.

**JULY**  
**Sunday 3rd 1.00pm - 4.00pm**  
**Bark in the Park**  
 Grab the lead it's pooches day out. Celebrating all canines. Join us for advice, demonstrations, competitions and displays. Held in People's Park.

**AUGUST**  
**Sunday 21st 10.30am - 4.30pm**  
**Banbury Food Fair**  
 Take the time to view, sample and purchase some of England's best and tastiest food and drink from over 100 independent traders. Forget cooking lunch, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy Sunday lunch al fresco

**Sunday 21st 10.30am - 4.30pm**  
**Banbury Flower & Produce Show**  
 Accompanying the Banbury Food Fair will be the wonderful Flower & Produce Show, now in its 10th year. We anticipate again to showcase over 500 exhibits from growers, bakers and crafters. With 6 categories to choose from, including children, there is something for all.

**SEPTEMBER**  
**Saturday 3rd 9.30am - 3.30pm**  
 Old Town Summer Party & Street Organ Festival Celebrating the businesses in the Old Town.

**Sunday 11th**  
**10.30am - 12.30pm**  
 Battle of Britain Parade and Service Commemorating the Battle of Britain 1940.

**OCTOBER**  
**Sunday 2nd 10.30am - 4.30pm**  
 Banbury Canal Day

**NOVEMBER**  
**Sunday 13th 10.00am - 1.00pm**  
 Remembrance Day Parade, Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony.

**Sunday 27th 10.00am - 6.00pm**  
 Christmas Lights Festival

**DECEMBER**  
**Saturday 3rd 6.00pm - 8.00pm**  
 A Celebration of Christmas

Fruit & Vegetables - Cut Flowers & Potted Plants - Floral Art - Cakes & Preserves - Crafts - Children's Variety

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# Fast and furriest cop caper

**ZOOTROPOLIS (PG, 108 mins)**  
Animation/Thriller/Action/Comedy/Drama. Featuring the voices of Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba, Jenny Slate, Nate Torrence, Octavia Spencer, JK Simmons, Don Lake, Bonnie Hunt, Shakira, Maurice LaMarche, Raymond S Persi. Directors: Byron Howard, Rich Moore, Jared Bush. CREATURES great and small live in perfect harmony in Byron Howard and Rich Moore's anthropomorphic animated feature that continues Disney's winning streak under the creative leadership of John Lasseter.

*Zootropolis* is a beautifully crafted parable that elegantly combines a noir detective thriller, buddy cop comedy and coming of age story with the studio's trademark visual splendour.

It's a tour de force of uproarious laughter and tears, accompanied by a gorgeous genre-melding orchestral score from Michael Giacchino that tugs the heartstrings.

Screenwriters Jared Bush and Phil Johnston engineer plentiful hairpin twists and turns, mining comedy from mammalian traits while underscoring each bravura set piece with valuable life lessons about prejudice, tolerance and teamwork.

Neat visual gags abound including, a small time weasel criminal selling bootleg DVDs of Disney animations *Wreck-It Rhino* and *Wrangled*, or familiar chain stores that have been

cutey rebranded for creature customers.

*Zootropolis* even cheekily pokes fun at *Frozen*'s song of empowerment, *Let It Go*, before unleashing its own infectious anthem, *Try Everything*, sung to the rafters by Shakira in the guise of a chart-topping savannah diva called Gazelle.

Bunnyburrow carrot farmer Stu Hopps (voiced by Don Lake) and wife Bonnie (Bonnie Hunt) try to dissuade their daughter Judy (Ginnifer Goodwin) from pursuing her dream of becoming the first serving rabbit police officer in Zootropolis.

"If you don't try anything new, you'll never fail," chirpily professes Stu.

Unperturbed, Judy earns her police badge as part of the Mammal Inclusion Initiative championed by Mayor Leodore Lionheart (JK Simmons) and his diminutive second in command, Assistant Mayor Dawn Bellwether (Jenny Slate).

Judy is initially assigned to traffic duty by Chief Bogo (Idris Elba), who doubts her abilities.

In order to prove her worth, the new cop on the block vows to solve the case of a missing resident.

"I will give you 48 hours to find Emmitt Otterton. You strike out, you resign," growls Chief Bogo, sensing an opportunity to rid himself of the bouncing bunny.

With the clock ticking, Judy gathers evidence from concerned wife Mrs Otterton (Octavia Spencer) and implores



a con artist fox called Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman) to help her break the case.

Working with an animal who should be her sworn enemy, Judy stumbles upon a grand conspiracy involving Arctic shrew Mr Big (Maurice LaMarche), who presides over the criminal fraternity in Tundratown with his polar henchbears.

*Zootropolis* is 108 minutes of unadulterated joy, rendered in exquisitely detailed animation.

A protracted sequence involving a three-toed sloth called Flash (Raymond S Persi), who works Department of Mammal Vehicles, is nothing short of genius.



## Cake Bookworm

**Trading Futures by Jim Powell is published in hardback by Picador priced £12.99 (ebook £6.49).**

Matthew Oxenhey leads a 2.5 kids kind of life. He has a nice house in north London, a devoted wife, two children and a well-earning job in the city. There's just one problem – this isn't the life he wanted. As a student who dreamed of rebelling against the system, he took a city job as a drunken bet – or did he? Everything has seemed a little hazy since he lost his job and started devoting more time to his favourite pastime – drinking. Indeed, Matthew is feeling pretty lost, until he bumps into a childhood sweetheart. Matthew is a selfish and often unlikeable character, but by the end of the book, you feel a great affection for this angry and confused man. That's testament to author Jim Powell – a talented writer whose previous careers include advertising, pottery and

politics. Key to this book though, and the thing that makes it impossible to put down, is its strong and constant dark humour. It's a short read, but entertaining, thoughtful and very witty.

**Fool Me Once by Harlan Coben is published in hardback by Century, priced £18.99 (ebook £9.99).**

The bestselling author of Tell No One returns with a new thriller. Former Special Ops pilot, Maya has just buried her husband. Only a few months ago, her sister was murdered. With her loved ones gone, Maya tries to hold it together for the sake of her young daughter Lily. As the police investigate the murder of her husband, Maya is told that both her sister and husband were killed with the same gun. How could that be? The former pilot then uses her military skills to investigate the connection. As she begins to piece it together, the fall-out of her last mission

continues to plague her. Will Maya discover the truth or is she losing her mind? Gripping.

**Lover by Anna Raverat is published in hardback by Picador, priced £12.99 (ebook £6.49).**

What do you do when you know your partner has cheated on you, but continues to lie about it when confronted? That's the dilemma Kate has when she discovers husband Adam's flirty emails to another woman on his computer. Lover is an uncomfortable read for anyone in a relationship as all trust between the couple is smashed to pieces from the start. Yet central character Kate is strong, honest and endearing. How she holds herself together while parenting her two young children, working as an executive and trying to get her head around the betrayal is an inspiring but pain-filled read. The characters in Anna Raverat's second book are so real – flawed, vulnerable and confused.

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Easter Sunday: CLOSED,  
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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**2121 (Abingdon) Sqn Air Training Corps:** 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn premises, Wootton Road, Whitecross, Abingdon. Adventure training, sports, gliding and flying. 7.15pm. £8 per month. 01235 538955.

**Abingdon Young Farmers:** Manor Farm, Marcham, Abingdon. Social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-40 per year.

**Drayton Sequence Dance:** Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton, Abingdon. 7.30pm. £2. 01235 531701.

**Film:** Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. *Emil and the Detectives*, 69mins, Germany, 1931, Cert U. Based on the popular children's book of the same title by Erich Kästner. Joint event with Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society. 7.30am. £6. 01235 521976.

**Indoor Bowls (short-mat):** Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 1.45pm. 01235 528402.

**The King of Balloons By Mark Davies:** Museum of Oxford, St Aldate's, Oxford. A talk by local author Mark Davies on his new book about the Oxford pastry cook James Sadler, who became the first Englishman to build and fly a hot-air balloon in Oxford in 1784. 6pm. Free. 01865 252334.

**Watercolour Painting (age 16+):** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 10.30am. £54, £49 (concs) per 5 week term. 01235 515144.

**Witney Folk Dance Group:** Madley Park Hall, Northfield Farm Lane, Witney. 8pm. £3 includes raffle and coffee. 01993 705961.

**Witney U3A:** Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. U3A Open Day. Free refreshments available. 10.30am. 01993 772040.

**FRIDAY**

**Country & Western Dance:** Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton. Carterton Country Music Club dancing to The Ian Highland Band. 8.30pm. £6. 01993 850682.

**Easter Steam Specials at Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway:** Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. 10am. Adult £11, senior £10, child £6. 07979 056366.

**Good Friday Walk:** 24th Abingdon Scout HQ, Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford. Circular walk takes approx 2-3 hrs. Clues to answer on the way with a prize for the most correct answers. Refreshments and raffle at the end of the walk. Dogs welcome. Not suitable for pushchairs. Walk will be muddy in places so good footwear and waterproofs recommended. 9.30am. £5 entry fee for group of up to six people.

**The Easter Bunny is Coming:** Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, Chipping Norton. Every child who visits the Giant Rabbit Burrow will get a golden Easter egg. Plus Easter Egg Hunt, Easter colouring and a chance to get creative decorating your own cookie egg. Entry to the Giant Rabbit Burrow is an additional £3 per child, but all other Easter activities are free. 10am. £3 plus normal farm admission. 01608 238014.

**Tornado at Easter:** Didcot Railway Centre, Entrance through Didcot Parkway Railway station, Didcot. London and North Eastern Railway A1 class 4-6-2 No 60163 'Tornado'. This powerful steam locomotive built to a 1940s design and completed in 2009. 10.30am. £15 adult, £11 child. 01235 817200.

**SATURDAY**

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:** SP503176, The Green, Bletchingham. A

leisurely 7.5-mile circular walk via Tackley and Kirtlington, led by Shirley Collins. Picnic Lunch. Registered Assistance Dogs only. 10am. 01869 246057.

**Carterton Lions Charity Car Boot Sale:** Carterton Recreation Ground, Alvescot Road, Carterton. 8am. Shoppers free, pitches £6 and £12. 01993 772241.

**Easter Ceilidh! (Barn Dance):** Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove. Canny Ceilidh Band and caller Ben Robinson. 8pm. £7 adults, £8 child. 07855 548512.

**Einstein's Easter Trail (drop-in):** Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Challenge yourself to Einstein's Easter Mystery Trail at the Museum of the History of Science. Help yourself from the Entrance Gallery. Drop-in suitable for children aged seven upwards. 12pm. Free. 01865 277280.

**Oxford Ice Rink UV Paint Ice Skating Party:** Oxford Ice Rink, Oxpens Road, Oxford. UV paint, live DJ, skating and skate hire included. £11. Advance £8. 8pm. 01865 305011.

**Table Top and Jumble Sale:** Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford. 11am. Buyers entry 50p. 01491 833938.

**SUNDAY**

**Easter Fun on the Farm:** Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. 11am. £5 adult, £2 child, £12 family. 01865 407792.

**Easter Vintage Bus Rides to Witney:** Oxford Bus Museum, Main Road, Long Hanborough and town centre, Witney. On Easter Bank Holiday Monday, preserved vintage buses from the Oxford Bus Museum will provide free rides into Witney. Buses will depart the museum car park every hour between 11.30am and 3.30pm. The return journey will take about 50 minutes. 11.30am. Free. 01993 883 617.

**Quiz Night:** The Bull Inn, Launton, Bicester. 8pm. 01869 248158.

**The Theme Country Show:** Thame Showground, Kingsey Road, Thame. 10am. Adults £13. over 65s £12, children £4. 01283 820548. And Monday.

**Witney Giant Afternoon Boot Sale:** Ducklington Showground, A415 Standlake Road, Ducklington.. 10am. 07974 056379.

**Zumba:** Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton, Abingdon. 7.30pm. £5. 01235 531180.

**MONDAY**

**Abingdon Mr Hemmings Traditional Morris Men:** Royal British Legion Spring Road Abingdon. 8pm. Free.

**Abingdon Scottish Country Dancing:** The Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. 8pm. £5 to join, then £2 each time.

**Morris Winter Practice:** Recreation Hall, Main Street, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Northwest. 8.15pm. 01993 200717.

**TUESDAY**

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:** SP395293, village car park, Great Tew. Part 2 of a figure of eight walk, a moderate 4 miles to Little Tew led by Mary Gough. 1.30pm. 07939 826412.

**Clay Sculpture – Forest Floor (Easter holiday activity for ages 5-12):** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 1.30pm. £16 (includes £2 for materials and firing). 01235 515144.

**Creative Tuesdays (adult workshop):** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 6pm. Free. 01235 515144.

**Drop-in and Doodle – The Big and the Small (family Easter holiday activity):** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 10am. Free. 01235 515144.

**Kidlington & District Historical**

**To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)**

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

**Society:** St John's Ambulance Hall,, High Street, Kidlington. Talk by Barrie Trinder entitled 'Canal People'. 7:50pm. £3.50 for visitors and 50p for under 26's. 01865 375758.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Eggs-traordinary:** Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Family-friendly drop-in session at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum. Create amazing creatures with only an old egg box. 2pm. Free for children with a paying adult. 01993 810214.

**Grove RFC Ladies:** Grove RFC, Cane Lane, Grove. 7pm. £70 annual fee. 07970 292322.

**Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes:** Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

**Woodland Adventure:** Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, Abingdon. An expedition for 5-8 year olds. No need to book. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child. 01865 407792.

**Music**

**THURSDAY**

**Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford:** Lunchtime concert. Free. 12.45pm. 01865 243216.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Simon Spillett. Award-winning saxophonist. The Spin Jazz Club. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Girls Names and Guests. 7.30pm. £8.

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Mad4Brit. Madchester tribute show bringing back the sounds of the 90's indie/britpop scene. 7.30pm. £6 (£5).

**Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford:** Latin Legacy. Authentic Cuban salsa. 8pm. Free.

**Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot:** The Great Western Tears. Country and folk music. 8pm. Donation.

**The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford:** The Death Letter, Sea Vitch, Fire At Night, Coma Wall. Acoustic rock. 8pm. Free entry.

**The Cock Inn, Combe:** Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8-11pm. Free.

**Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Warhol Late. Live music, pop-up films, silent discos, DJs, and unusual experiences. 6pm-8pm. £10.

**FRIDAY**

**Berinsfield Social Club, Green Furlong, Berinsfield:** Decades. 9pm. 07770 899859.

**Coty Arms, High Street, Burford:** Joe Holic. Free entry. 9pm. 01993 822227.

**Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames:** Bach St John Passion. Orchestra of St John's. £37.50/£30/£20. 7.30pm. 07775 904626.

**Horse & Groom, The Green, Milcombe, Banbury:** Jamie Felton. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 722142.

**St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford:** Mozart Requiem – Bring and sing. £10 (singers), £5 (audience), £3 (score hire). 4.30pm. 01865 510460.

**The Beacon, Portway, Wantage:** The Zoots. Music from the 1960s. £12. 7.15pm. 01235 763456.

**The Nag's Head, The Bridge, Abingdon:** Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Blues and boogie. Free. 9pm. 07790 646028.

**The Northcourt, 3 Northcourt Road, Abingdon:** U2 Tribe. U2 tribute band. £10 advance, £12 door. 7.30pm. 01235 856076.

**The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:** The Urban Folk Quartet. £10 in advance, £12 on the door. 8.15pm. 01865 305305.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** While She Sleeps. Hardcore/rock. 7pm. Sold out.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Manteca. Feel-good Latin big band. 11.30pm. £7.

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Nine Ton Peanut Smugglers, Count Skylarkin. Final gig for local ska, rhythm & blues & Caribbean boogaloo ensemble. 10pm. £5 (adv), £6 (otd).

**O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Trivium. Florida metalheads. 6pm. £20.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Kuiper, The Shades, Club Soda, Dan Rawle. Alt-rock, rhythm & blues, folk-pop. 7.30pm. £6.

**The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford:** The Aureate Act, Cherokee, Midnight Run, Luke Almond. Local rock & folk-rock bands. 7pm. £6.

**St Columba's United Reformed Church, Alfred Street, Oxford:** Ditte Ely. Album launch. Vocals and guitar, punctuated by harmony, percussion, brass, strings and electronica. 7.30pm. £10.

**SATURDAY**

**Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford:** Kelly Oliver. Performing songs from her second album *Bedlam* as well as from 2014's debut *This Land*. Alongside acoustic guitar melodies and notes of Irish storytelling, Kelly performs on the harmonica. £5. 7pm. 01865 333623.

**Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames:** Bach concertos. Orchestra of St John's. £37.50/£30/£20. 7.30pm. 07775 904626.

**Headington Conservative Club, 60 Windmill Road, Headington:** Country and Western with Ridgeway Country. £5 per person. 8.30pm. 01865 439400.

**Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston:** Johnny and the Jivetoness. Free. 9pm. 01865 243991.

**Plough, Orchard Lane, East Hendred:** Resurrection. Rock and pop duo. Free entry. 9pm. 01235833213.

**The Wheatsheaf, High Street, Oxford:** Tess Of The Circle, Hogg's Bison and Cosmosis. £4.50, cheaper advance. 8.20pm. 01865 395327.

**The Wheatsheaf, 68 George Street, Banbury:** Punch Drunk Monkey Club *Images of You* EP Launch. Support from Ravens and Charlie Leavy. Free. 7.30pm.

**White Hart, Godstow Road, Wolvercote:** Decades. Male duo. Free entry. 9pm. 01865 511978.

**White Horse, Churchill Road, Bicester:** The C.Ody. Free entry. 8.30pm. 01869 253135.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Morpheus Rising, Vice, MOFO. Rock/metal. 7pm. £8 (adv), £10 (otd).

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Ferryman, Resin, The Guardian. Rock/metal. 7pm. £7 (adv), £10 (otd).

**SUNDAY**

**Bicester Ex Services Club, Sheep Street, Bicester:** The Summits. Male duo performing covers from 60's to present. 5pm. 01869 245367.

**Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe, Northmoor:** Jamie Felton. Young vocal guitarist performs rock and pop covers. Free entry. 8.30pm. 01865 880028.

**St Mary's Church, Church Street, Marsh Gibbon:** Marsh Gibbon Silver Band Concert. Annual Clock Concert. Free. 7pm.

**Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford:** Fleur Stevenson Quartet. Jazz. 6.30-9pm. Free.

**Prince of Wales, 73 Church Way, Iffley Village, Oxford:** Oxford Classic Jazz Band. 3-6pm. Free.

**MONDAY**

**New Theatre, Oxford, 2 George Street, Oxford:** Collabro: Act Two. 2015 *Britain's Got Talent* winners. 7pm. £23.40-£44.40.

**TUESDAY**

**Gladiator's Hall, Junction Iffley Road/Percy Street, Oxford:** Eastside Rhythm Kings. New Orleans/Dixieland jazz. 8pm.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Hugh Turner Band. Leading jazz guitarist with his quartet. 8.30pm. Free.

**WEDNESDAY**

**North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown:** Bella Hardy. Folk singer supported by her trio on fiddle, guitar & piano. £14 (£12 concessions). 8pm. 01865 319450.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Out Of The Village, Nikki Petherick, Rose Segal, Hannah Bruce. Local female vocalists and singer-songwriters. 7.30pm. £5.

**The Half Moon, 18 St Clements, Oxford:** Trish Elphinstone Quintet. Local jazz ensemble. 8.30pm. Free.

**Theatre**

**Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Mar 23-Apr 3, *Bed Time*. A new show for children aged two to six. Various times, £8.50(£6.50). 01865 305305.

**Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford:** Mar 26, Sol Bernstein, Jim Smallman and Alistair Barrie. 8pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

**Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Jericho:** Mar 28-29, JOAN – Playhouse Plays Out. JOAN fuses lyrical new writing with drag king cabaret. 7.30pm. £12, discounts available. 01865 305305.

**Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Mar 21-26, *Single Spies*. Alan Bennett's award-winning comedy explores our fascination with Russian spies and royalty. Various times. £15-£31. Mar 30-Apr 2, 42nd Street. 7.30pm. £11.50 to £21, discounts available. 01865 305305.

**New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:** Mar 22-26, *Goodnight Mister Tom*. Various times. Tickets £14.40 - £31.40 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

**Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford:** Mar 24, *Living with the Lights On*. A one-man performance with Q&A with Mark Lockyer. From Actors Touring Company with profits to the Archway Foundation. 7.15pm. £10. 01865 790552.

**Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Mar 24, *Backstage in Biscuit Land*. This two-woman show weaves comedy, puppetry, singing, and incredible tics to explore spontaneity, creativity and disability. 7.45pm. £14(£11). 01608 642350.



CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport



Zac McEachran opened the scoring for Banbury United in the tenth minute on Saturday

# United keep pressure on

Puritans stay second with Shortwood victory

GOALS from Zac McEachran and Felipe Barcelos earned Banbury United a 2-1 victory at home to Shortwood United to consolidate second place.

The Puritans took the lead ten minutes into the Evo-Stik Division 1 South & West fixture, when McEachran netted from Barcelos's pass.

Leading scorer Ricky Johnson missed a great chance to make it 2-0 just before half-time.

The second did finally arrive in the 69th minute, thanks to a superb goal from Barcelos.

Shortwood pulled a goal back through Will Morford, but Banbury finished on top.

The win kept Mike Ford's side two points behind leaders Cinderford Town, who played one of their four games in hand at Shortwood on Tuesday.

Up next for the Puritans is a double header over the Easter weekend.

Tiverton Town visit on Saturday, before the Easter Monday derby at Wantage Town.

**Banbury Utd:** Harding, Welch-Hayes, Hopkins, Stanbridge, Wise, Gunn, McEachran, Nash, Johnson, Barcelos (Howards 75), Bell (Browne 87). Subs not used: Platt, Blackstock.

**Attendance:** 396.

| EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|--|--|--|
| Division 1 South & West  |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |  |  |  |
| (Up to March 21)         |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |  |  |  |
|                          | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | A   | Pts |  |  |  |
| Cinderford Tn            | 32 | 24 | 4  | 2  | 68 | 21  | 80  |  |  |  |
| Banbury Utd              | 36 | 23 | 9  | 4  | 85 | 38  | 78  |  |  |  |
| Supermarine              | 35 | 23 | 5  | 7  | 67 | 36  | 74  |  |  |  |
| Taunton Tn               | 33 | 21 | 8  | 4  | 71 | 28  | 71  |  |  |  |
| Winchester City          | 33 | 22 | 4  | 7  | 85 | 41  | 70  |  |  |  |
| Evesham Utd              | 35 | 18 | 9  | 8  | 72 | 35  | 63  |  |  |  |
| Tiverton Tn              | 33 | 16 | 10 | 7  | 58 | 39  | 58  |  |  |  |
| North Leigh              | 33 | 18 | 3  | 12 | 65 | 38  | 57  |  |  |  |
| Didcot Tn                | 36 | 16 | 8  | 12 | 76 | 52  | 56  |  |  |  |
| Shortwood Utd            | 32 | 17 | 4  | 11 | 64 | 49  | 55  |  |  |  |
| AFC Totton               | 34 | 14 | 5  | 15 | 65 | 60  | 47  |  |  |  |
| Yate Tn                  | 36 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 48 | 50  | 46  |  |  |  |
| Mangotsfield             | 36 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 56 | 56  | 43  |  |  |  |
| Marlow                   | 36 | 12 | 7  | 17 | 54 | 64  | 43  |  |  |  |
| Bishops Cleeve           | 32 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 45 | 49  | 42  |  |  |  |
| Larkhall Ath             | 33 | 11 | 7  | 15 | 51 | 57  | 40  |  |  |  |
| Slimbridge               | 35 | 9  | 9  | 17 | 41 | 49  | 36  |  |  |  |
| Wimborne Tn              | 35 | 8  | 6  | 21 | 57 | 75  | 30  |  |  |  |
| Bridgwater Tn            | 36 | 8  | 6  | 22 | 37 | 71  | 30  |  |  |  |
| Wantage Tn               | 36 | 7  | 4  | 25 | 38 | 87  | 25  |  |  |  |
| Burnham                  | 36 | 4  | 5  | 27 | 35 | 91  | 17  |  |  |  |
| Bashley                  | 35 | 0  | 2  | 33 | 10 | 162 | 2   |  |  |  |

## Phillips stars as Banbury battle back

CAPTAIN Ed Phillips starred as leaders Banbury recorded a comeback 28-15 victory over Malvern.

For the first time this season, Bulls, who were in action in the Oxfordshire Cup final last night, went into half-time scoreless at 8-0 down in the Midlands 2 West South clash.

And they also lost Matt Goode to injury after the centre suffered a broken arm.

Phillips began the second half by converting his own try, before repeating that feat to make it 14-8.

Manu Paniagua dotted down and Phillips added the extras as Bulls raced to 21-8.

Malvern put pressure on the hosts and moved to within a score of victory with a converted try.

However, a quickly taken penalty from Phillips led to Ian Isham going over.

Phillips converted with the last kick of the game.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You know it hasn't been very easy for you to keep your close ones happy, but aspects suggest that much of what your friends have going on does not relate directly to you. Talks you have this weekend can shine much light on what is really making them unhappy. Use the communicative skills Mercury is giving you to build their confidence. Ring now for a romantic revelation.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You're finding it hard to balance work and personal issues, but from Tuesday you start to see with ease and clarity what needs to be done to find the happiness you seek. This may mean putting a work contact's relationship with you into a sensitive situation, but is sure to outweigh any other options. Ring now to hear why you may need to brush up on your foreign languages soon.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You are unsure of your emotions and this has much to do with the fact that you feel you are being pushed and pressured into what others want rather than what you need. Being honest about your feelings can help you reach a life changing decision. Saturn gives you confidence. Use it to obtain what you really want. Ring now to hear how texts will reveal a secret.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

There is a more social feel to your chart this week which sees you feeling full of energy and enthusiasm for life. A younger person who let you down takes action to rebuild your trust in them and aspects suggest they'll succeed. A family member who didn't want to talk to you now does, but for reasons which could be for their own gain. Ring now to make the most of your future.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Family have news which is sure to shock and surprise you, but it will also prove that you're never too old to start again in life. Someone you thought did not support you in your career is about to pleasantly surprise you with their actions. Professional life gets more interesting for you. Ring now to hear how March can be the month you make your professional debut.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You are going to have to show support and confidence to family this week. They will need you by their side as they start a new adventure. Conversations with family reveal much you did not know about what really went on behind closed doors. A major change to a friend's personal life leaves you with the feeling you should also be making changes. Ring now for more on current dramatics.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

I can see you've had your fair share of stress in recent days and weeks, but you must also acknowledge that you have left yourself open to manipulation. Try to have more self confidence this week so that you do not get pushed into situations you do not want. Someone from your past wants to make amends for a wrong they did you. Ring now to make life exciting again.

0906 585 4365

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You have some really big decisions to make regarding your future and you have now realised that you can't make them alone. A close one is about to pleasantly surprise you with the help and support they give you. With the support you now have, you will not hesitate in making major decisions regarding where you live and how. Ring now so I can tell you what else I see ahead.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You have many loose ends to tie up and you'll be dealing with several difficult faces. Your ruling planet Jupiter forces you to ask for more than you want in business, so be aware of all you're signing and committing yourself to please Sagittarius. Family prove demanding but are worth giving in to for once. Ring now to hear why it's worth playing a submissive role this week.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You're finding it difficult to make decisions which will please everyone, so stop trying. You have to think about your long term needs and desires or things will not work out. A gentler approach to a stand off with a family member is the answer to ending this week successfully. A break in your inner circle brings surprise, but is forecast to only be temporary. Ring now so I can reveal more.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You are not happy with the distance that has crept into your relationship with a close one. However, it is in your hands and within your power to do something about it. Make the effort to let those you love know how much they mean to you. There is also one relationship which you need to become less reliant upon. Your confidence will soar if you address this. Ring me now for more on this emotive week.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Passion is strong in your chart and you act from the heart throughout the coming seven days. This will see an array of dramatic events unfolding and could see some of you Pisceans making a dramatic life announcement. Double check financial sums. It will be to your advantage if you do. Ring now to hear why this is such a fantastic year for love and relationships.

0906 585 4371

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✓ Flåm lies at the head of mighty

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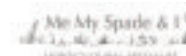
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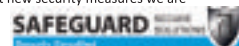
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# MARTIN&CO

## LETTINGS

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### Thyme Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom detached house with enclosed garden and 2 allocated parking spaces. The property is situated in the popular Hanwell Fields estate. The property is available unfurnished from 21st April 2016. Book your viewing now!

**£975pcm**



### The Moors Drive

This is a new to the market three bedroom spacious bungalow with driveway parking and large garden situated in the village of Middleton Cheney. Available unfurnished. Book your viewing now.

**£950pcm**



### Kilbale Crescent

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market ground floor one bedroom apartment with off road parking and conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre. The property comprises a separate kitchen with cooker and washing machine included; good size lounge and bedroom. Available in April unfurnished. EPC - D

**£625pcm**



### School End

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this charming, well presented two bedroom terraced property available mid May in the heart of Aynho village. The property comprises of living room and newly fitted kitchen. From the first floor landing there are two bedrooms and a newly fitted bathroom. Off road parking. Closely located to Banbury and Bicester. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Padbury Drive

Martin and Co are pleased to present, this spacious two bedroom flat with close proximity to both Banbury town centre and train station. The spacious living accommodation comprises; Two double bedrooms, Master with on-suite, Kitchen, Lounge. This property benefits from allocated parking, and available unfurnished. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Dashwood Rise

Martin and Co Banbury, are pleased to present, this charming two bedroom bungalow in the sort after village of Duns Tew. The property comprises; two double bedrooms, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, and enclosed rear garden. Viewing comes highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Hillside Close

This is a super three bedroom semi detached house in the Cherwell Heights area of Banbury. Entrance hall leads to good size lounge and spacious kitchen overlooking the enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn. Upstairs there are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property is available unfurnished with washing machine. EPC - C

**£895pcm**



### Middleton Road

Martin and Co Banbury are delighted to offer to the market, this two bedroom apartment, within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises; two double bedrooms, kitchen/lounge, bathroom with shower over bath. EPC - B

**£775pcm**



### Middleton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town and the train station. The property comprises: fully fitted kitchen and open plan living room. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. There is also parking at the rear of the property.

**£750pcm**



### Causeway

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terrace property, with close proximity to train station and town centre. The property comprises; kitchen, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms. There is on road parking, and a small garden to the rear of the property. Suitable for single or professional couple. EPC - C

**£795pcm**



### Broughton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom refurbished end of terrace property with enclosed rear garden. Located close proximity to the town centre, and walking distance to the train station. The property comprises: kitchen; living room; dining room; two bedrooms and bathroom. This property is available unfurnished. EPC - E

**£875pcm**



### Valley Road

A large three bedroom house available soon. The property benefits from a fully fitted kitchen with washing machine; fridge freezer and cooker. Gas central heating. There is also a games room / study available. Conservatory and enclosed garden with a shed. Book your viewing now! Close to the hospital and walking distance to the town centre and train station too. EPC - C

**£1,075pcm**



### Flat 3

Martin & Co are pleased to present a one bedroom top floor apartment within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Good size bedroom and living accommodation. Available unfurnished. Ideal for single or professional couple.





**£575pcm**





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## In brief

- **BRITISH** sports car maker Aston Martin heralded the beginning of a new era by unveiling its new DB11 production model at this year's Geneva Motor Show. The DB11 is the first of a new generation of Aston Martins that benefit from radical overhauls in design, structure and powertrain. The exterior shows a clear step forward from the DB9, with a clamshell bonnet, a strongly-waisted centre section and a distinctive kick to the tail. Aston Martin plans first deliveries of the DB11 in the winter of 2016, with prices expected to start at £154,900.
- **HONDA** has previewed the next generation Civic production with the reveal of an attractive concept at this year's Geneva Motor Show. Indicating a clear change of direction compared to the outgoing model, the Civic Hatchback Prototype has a more aggressive exterior design with some elements clearly influenced by the NSX supercar. The new Honda Civic is scheduled to arrive in early 2017, with prices starting from about £17,000.

# CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

## Tech a look at the gadget-filled SRi

### AUTO FACTS

Model: Vauxhall Astra SRi Nav 1.4 Turbo  
 Price: £19,595  
 Insurance group: 17E  
 Fuel consumption (Combined): 51.4mpg  
 Top speed: 134mph  
 Length: 437cm/172in  
 Width: 181cm/71.3in  
 Luggage capacity: 13cu ft  
 Fuel tank capacity: 10.5 gallons/48 litres  
 CO2 emissions: 128g/km  
 Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

David Duffy  
 david.duffy@nqo.com

THE latest buzzword in modern motoring is connectivity – and few cars come better connected than the sleek new Astra.

At first glance, there are few clues to the mass of technology packed into the car, which is led by a new system called OnStar.

Built in Cheshire, the car was developed in the UK with plenty of testing on English and Welsh roads and it shows – it drives really well.

Priced from £15,295 on-the-road, it competes head-on with the Volkswagen Golf and the SEAT Leon in the family hatchback sector.

The lean Astra looks good inside and out and has more space inside than its predecessor, even though the new model is smaller on the outside.

Power on the test car came from a new 150 horsepower, four-cylinder, 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol engine, which is one of the stars of the new engine range.

Mated to a six-speed gearbox as standard, it is powerful, quiet and remarkably economical, with 50mpg in day-to-day.

The range of lighter, efficient engines, a host of safety



systems, prices lower than its predecessor, and plenty of new technology, add to the appeal of the most streamlined Astra yet built.

Leading the way in technology is the OnStar system that turns the new Astra into a 4G mobile Wi-Fi hotspot, allowing up to seven devices, from smartphones to tablets, to be connected simultaneously.

The OnStar system gives touch-of-a-button connection with a UK-based contact centre which can deliver roadside assistance or navigation help. If you are looking for a certain destination, such as a restaurant or the closest petrol station,

an OnStar adviser will send the destination directly to the car's navigation system.

You can also download the MyVauxhall app which gives OnStar contact from anywhere via a smartphone, for example, if the car has been stolen, needs to be located and the ignition blocked at some point.

Needless to say, other manufacturers are ploughing ahead with their own take on motoring's high-tech future, with Volvo just announcing it will be the world's first car maker to offer cars without keys from 2017, with buyers offered an app for their mobile phones to replace the physical key with a digital one.

## Safety on the road

### Call goes out to cut drink-drive limit

ROAD safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist says the UK government must now accept that the drink-drive limit in England and Wales is too high.

The organisation calls for an immediate commitment to reducing the limit, combined with increased police activity to enforce the law. The demand follows the publication of the new 'Fit to Drive' report by the Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Transport Safety, showing alcohol impairment continues to be a major contributory factor to crashes.

About 4.5 fatal collisions every week in 2013 (the most recent

figures available) were related to drink-driving.

GEM chief executive David Williams said: "It is believed that reducing the limit from 80mg/100ml to 50mg/100ml would save about 25 lives and 95 serious injuries every year.

"Additionally, there is excellent technology available to make simple, effective roadside breath tests a reality.

"After all, it is now 11 years since Parliament made provision for roadside evidential breath-testing, which would greatly increase the number of tests carried out by police officers, and reduce the vast burden of paperwork which

accompanies every positive breath test."

He added: "Reducing the drink-drive limit should be the number one priority, as this would bring clear and significant road safety benefits.

"Supporting this should be modern alcohol testing equipment that helps police officers do their job more efficiently.

"The government needs to take a strong lead to help prevent the unnecessary death, injury and misery that's too often a consequence of someone's irresponsible decision to get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol."

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| 12/62 | Volvo V60 2 R-Design Nav, Caspian Blue Metallic with 35,000 miles | <b>£15,990</b> |
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  - The chance to gain a QCF Diploma in social care
- and you'll even get paid for travelling between home visits because our new positions come with a guaranteed salary.

To find out more drop us a line at [careers@danacare.co.uk](mailto:careers@danacare.co.uk), visit [www.danacare.co.uk](http://www.danacare.co.uk), or text CARER to 66777, or call us in **Banbury** 01295 252277; **Wantage** 01235 772440; **Witney** 01993 708905 or **Oxford** 01865 715716